AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A key distribution method applied in the Next Generation Network comprising a terminal, a soft switch and an authentication center, comprising:

the terminal sending a registration request message to the soft switch for a registration;

the soft switch sending ~~the~~ an authentication request message to the authentication center for the authentication for the terminal; and

the authentication center authenticating the terminal, generating a session key for the terminal and the soft switch, and ~~upon a successful registration authentication,~~ sending the session key to the soft switch, so as to be distributed to the terminal upon a successful authentication;

wherein the step of the authentication center authenticating the terminal comprises:

the authentication center generating a first verification word for the terminal according to a key Kc shared with the terminal, encrypting the session key with the shared key Kc, and returning the encrypted session key and the first verification word to the soft switch;

the soft switch returning a registration failure response message to the terminal to notify the terminal of a registration failure;

the terminal generating a second verification word according to the key Kc shared with the authentication center, and sending a registration message containing the second verification word to the soft switch for a registration again; and

the soft switch authenticating the terminal according to the first verification word and the second verification word.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The key distribution method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the step of the soft switch distributing the session key to the terminal comprises:

the soft switch returning to the terminal a registration success response message containing the session key encrypted with the shared key Kc, and sending a terminal authentication success message to the authentication center; and

the terminal decrypting the session key encrypted by the authentication center according to the shared key Kc.

4. (Previously Presented) The key distribution method according to claim 3, wherein the method further comprises:

the terminal sending to the soft switch a list of security mechanisms supported by the terminal and priority information of each security mechanism;

the soft switch choosing an appropriate security mechanism for communication according to the list of security mechanisms and the priority information of each security mechanism of the terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) The key distribution method according to claim 1,

wherein the registration request message and the registration message are SIP protocol registration messages, and the registration failure response message is a SIP protocol response message, ~~and the registration success response message is a SIP protocol registration request success message~~; or

wherein the registration request message is a system restart message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, the registration failure response message ~~and the registration success response message are~~ is a notification request message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system service status change message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, the registration failure response message ~~and the registration success response message are~~ is an attribute modification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol; or

wherein the registration request message is a gatekeeper request message in the H.323 protocol, the registration failure response message is a gatekeeper rejection message in the H.323 protocol, and the registration message is a registration request message in the H.323 protocol~~, and the registration success response message is a registration success message in the H.323 protocol~~.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The key distribution method according to claim 3,

wherein the registration request message and the registration message are SIP protocol registration messages, the registration failure response message is a SIP protocol response message, and the registration success response message is a SIP protocol registration request success message; or

wherein the registration request message is a system restart message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are a notification request message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system service status change message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are an attribute modification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol; or

wherein the registration request message is a gatekeeper request message in the H.323 protocol, the registration failure response message is a gatekeeper rejection message in the H.323 protocol, the registration message is a registration request message in the H.323 protocol, and the registration success response message is a registration success message in the H.323 protocol.

8. (Previously Presented) The key distribution method according to claim 4,

wherein the registration request message and the registration message are SIP protocol registration messages, the registration failure response message is a SIP protocol response message, and the registration success response message is a SIP protocol registration request success message; or

wherein the registration request message is a system restart message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are a notification request message and a corresponding

response message in the MGCP protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system service status change message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are an attribute modification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol; or

wherein the registration request message is a gatekeeper request message in the H.323 protocol, the registration failure response message is a gatekeeper rejection message in the H.323 protocol, the registration message is a registration request message in the H.323 protocol, and the registration success response message is a registration success message in the H.323 protocol.

9. (Currently Amended) A key distribution method applied in the Next Generation Network comprising a terminal, a signaling proxy, a soft switch and an authentication center, comprising:

the terminal sending a registration request message through the signaling proxy to the soft switch for a registration;

the soft switch sending ~~the~~ an authentication request message to the authentication center for the authentication for the terminal; and

the authentication center authenticating the terminal, generating a session key for the terminal and the signaling proxy, and ~~upon a successful registration authentication,~~ sending the session key to the soft switch, so as to be distributed through the signaling proxy to the terminal upon a successful authentication;

wherein the step of the authentication center authenticating the terminal comprises:

the authentication center generating a first verification word for the terminal according to a key Kc shared with the terminal and a key Ksp shared with the signaling proxy, encrypting the session key respectively with the shared key Kc and the shared key Ksp, and returning the encrypted session key and the first verification word to the soft switch;

the soft switch returning a registration failure response message through the signaling proxy to the terminal to notify the terminal of a registration failure;

the terminal generating a second verification word according to the key Kc shared with the authentication center, and sending a registration message containing the second verification word to the signaling proxy to be forwarded to the soft switch for a registration again; and

the soft switch authenticating the terminal according to the first verification word and the second verification word.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The key distribution method according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 9, wherein the step of the soft switch distributing the session key to the terminal comprises:

the soft switch forwarding to the signaling proxy a terminal registration success response message containing the session key encrypted by the authentication center respectively with the shared keys Kc and Ksp, and the signaling proxy decrypting with the shared key Ksp the session key encrypted by the authentication center with the shared key Ksp, calculating a message verification word for the registration success response message with the decrypted session key, and forwarding to the terminal the registration success response message containing the message verification word and the session key encrypted with the shared key Kc; and

the terminal decrypting the session key encrypted by the authentication center according to the shared key Kc, and authenticating with the decrypted session key the message authentication word of the message returned from the signaling proxy so as to authenticate an identity of the signaling proxy, an integrity of the message and whether security mechanism parameters of the terminal returned from the signaling proxy are correct.

12. (Previously Presented) The key distribution method according to claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:

the terminal sending to the signaling proxy a list of security mechanisms supported by the terminal and priority information of each security mechanism, and the signaling proxy choosing an appropriate security mechanism for communication according to the security mechanisms supported by the terminal and the priority information of each security mechanism.

13. (Currently Amended) The key distribution method according to claim 9,

wherein the registration request message and the registration message are SIP protocol registration messages, and the registration failure response message is a SIP protocol response message, ~~and the registration success response message is a SIP protocol registration request success message~~; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system restart message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, the registration failure response message ~~and the registration success response message are~~ is a notification request message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system service status change message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, the registration failure response message ~~and the registration success response message are~~ is an attribute modification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol; or

wherein the registration request message is a gatekeeper request message in the H.323 protocol, the registration failure response message is a gatekeeper rejection message in the H.323 protocol, and the registration message is a registration request message in the H.323 protocol~~, and the registration success response message is a registration success message in the H.323 protocol~~.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The key distribution method according to claim 11,

wherein the registration request message and the registration message are SIP protocol registration messages, the registration failure response message is a SIP protocol response message, and the registration success response message is a SIP protocol registration request success message; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system restart message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are a notification request message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system service status change message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are an attribute modification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol; or

wherein the registration request message is a gatekeeper request message in the H.323 protocol, the registration failure response message is a gatekeeper rejection message in the H.323 protocol, the registration message is a registration request message in the H.323 protocol, and the registration success response message is a registration success message in the H.323 protocol.

16. (Previously Presented) The key distribution method according to claim 12,

wherein the registration request message and the registration message are SIP protocol registration messages, the registration failure response message is a SIP protocol response message, and the registration success response message is a SIP protocol registration request success message; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system restart message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are a notification request message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the MGCP protocol; or

wherein the registration request message comprises a system service status change message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, the registration failure response message and the registration success response message are an attribute modification message and a

corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol, and the registration message comprises a notification message and a corresponding response message in the H.248 protocol; or

wherein the registration request message is a gatekeeper request message in the H.323 protocol, the registration failure response message is a gatekeeper rejection message in the H.323 protocol, the registration message is a registration request message in the H.323 protocol, and the registration success response message is a registration success message in the H.323 protocol.

17. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A key distribution system applied in the Next Generation Network comprising:

a terminal adapted to send a registration request message for a registration;

a soft switch adapted to receive the registration request message sent from the terminal and sent an authentication request message for the authentication for the terminal; and

an authentication center adapted to receive the authentication request message sent from the soft switch, to authenticate the terminal, to generate a session key for the terminal and the soft switch, and to send the session key to the soft switch so as to be distributed to the terminal upon a successful authentication;

wherein the authentication center is further to adapted to generate a first verification word for the terminal according to a key Kc shared with the terminal, to encrypt the session key with the shared key Kc, and to return the encrypted session key and the first verification word to the soft switch;

wherein the soft switch is further to adapted to return a registration failure response message to the terminal to notify the terminal of a registration failure, and to authenticate the terminal according to the first verification word and a second verification word; and

wherein the terminal is further to adapted to generate the second verification word according to the key Kc shared with the authentication center, and to send a registration message containing the second verification word to the soft switch for a registration again.

20. (New) A key distribution system applied in the Next Generation Network comprising:

a terminal adapted to send a registration request message for a registration;

a signaling proxy adapted to forward the registration request message from the terminal, and to distribute a session key to the terminal;

a soft switch adapted to receive the registration request message sent from the terminal through the signaling proxy and sent an authentication request message for the authentication for the terminal; and

an authentication center adapted to receive the authentication request message sent from the soft switch, to authenticate the terminal, to generate the session key for the terminal and the signaling proxy, and to send the session key to the soft switch so as to be distributed through the signaling proxy to the terminal upon a successful authentication;

wherein the authentication center is further adapted to generate a first verification word for the terminal according to a key Kc shared with the terminal and a key Ksp shared with the signaling proxy, to encrypt the session key respectively with the shared key Kc and the shared key Ksp, and to return the encrypted session key and the first verification word to the soft switch;

wherein the soft switch is further adapted to return a registration failure response message through the signaling proxy to the terminal to notify the terminal of a registration failure, and to authenticate the terminal according to the first verification word and a second verification word; and

wherein the terminal is further adapted to generate the second verification word according to the key Kc shared with the authentication center, and to send a registration message containing the second verification word to the signaling proxy to be forwarded to the soft switch for a registration again.